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E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/08/2034  
TAGS: [PINR](#) [KISL](#) [PGOV](#) [BA](#)  
SUBJECT: (S/NF) KUDOS FOR REPORTING ON SHIA CLERICAL  
HIERARCHY IN BAHRAIN (C-DI9-01736)

REF: MANAMA 000536

Classified By: MICHAEL P. OWENS, ACTING DIR, INR/OPS. REASON: 1.4(C).

[1](#)1. (C/NF) WASHINGTON ANALYSTS GREATLY APPRECIATED RECENT REPORTING ON THE SHIA CLERICAL HIERARCHY IN BAHRAIN AND CONNECTIONS BETWEEN SHIA CLERICS/OPPOSITION LEADERS TO FOREIGN CLERICS FROM IRAQ, IRAN, LEBANON, AND HIZBALLAH. WE REMAIN INTERESTED IN ANY REPORTING THAT DESCRIBES THE LEVEL OF INFLUENCE FOREIGN CLERICS HAVE ON SIGNIFICANT SHIA LEADERS IN BAHRAIN AND THE NATURE OF THESE RELATIONSHIPS. WE ARE ALSO INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE SHIA CLERICAL HIERARCHY, THE PROMINENCE OF EACH CLERIC, AND HOW THEY ARE VIEWED BY THE PUBLIC AND OTHER CLERICS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE FURTHER REPORTING ON THE QUESTIONS BELOW, AS TIME AND RESOURCES PERMIT.

[1](#)A. (C) WHAT IS THE LEVEL OF COORDINATION, IF ANY, BETWEEN PROMINENT BAHRAINI SHIA CLERICS AND QOM OR NAJAF OR LEBANON?

[1](#)B. (C) WHAT IS THE LEVEL OF COORDINATION, IF ANY, BETWEEN THE BAHRAINI AND THE SAUDI SHIA?

[1](#)C. (C) ARE IRAQI OR IRANIAN CLERICS REACHING OUT TO BAHRAINI SHIA POPULATIONS, OR VICE VERSA, FOR DECISIONMAKING PURPOSES? IF SO, ARE SUCH INITIATIVES DESIGNED TO GAIN RELIGIOUS LEGITIMACY, OR FOR ACTUAL DIRECTION/ADVICE?

[1](#)D. (C) ARE THERE INTRA-SHIA RIVALRIES BETWEEN CLERICS? IF SO, HOW ARE THESE RIVALRIES AFFECTING DECISIONMAKING IN THE BAHRAINI COMMUNITY?

[1](#)E. (C) HOW DOES THE BAHRAINI SHIA PUBLIC CONTINUE TO VIEW ISA QASSIM? WHICH CLERICS POSE A VIABLE CHALLENGE TO HIS AUTHORITY?

[1](#)F. (C) HOW HAS THE AFTERMATH OF THE IRANIAN ELECTIONS AFFECTED SHIA CLERICS' STANDING IN BAHRAIN?

[1](#)2. (U) PLEASE CITE C-DI9-01736 IN THE SUBJECT LINE OF REPORTING IN RESPONSE TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS.  
CLINTON